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O 292025Z JAN 82
FM USINT HAVANA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9506
INFO RUEBSG/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 182
RUESMG/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 355
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 251
BT

EZ1:
C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 00574
EXDIS

EZ2:
E.O. 12063: GDS 1/29/82 (SMITH, W.S.) DR-M
TAGS: PEPR SNAR CU CO US
SUBJECT: CUBA REACTS TO ALLEGATIONS OF INVOLVEMENT IN DRUG TRAFFIC
REF: STATE 21909
1. ENTIRE TEXT.
2. DURING CONVERSATION ON OTHER SUBJECTS JAN 28 (SEPTELS), KEY
CASTRO AIDE JOSE LUIS PADRON RAISED STATEMENT MADE BY DEPT OF

State Dept. review completed

STATE WHICH TENDED TO SUPPORT ALLEGATIONS OF DETAINED DRUG TRAFFICKER THAT CUBA HAD FACILITATED DRUG TRAFFICKING AND USED HIM TO SEND ARMS TO COLOMBIA (PEPTEL).

3. ALLEGATIONS, PADRON STATED VEHEMENTLY, WERE NOTHING BUT FABRICATIONS, AS PUBLIC STATEMENT ISSUED BY GOC HAD ALREADY ASSERTED. IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT US HAD PUBLICLY ACCEPTED THESE ALLEGATIONS WITHOUT FIRST CHECKING A FEW OF THE FACTS. ITEM: RAUL CASTRO HAD NOT BEEN IN NICARAGUA AT TIME CLAIMED BY GUILLOT; GUILLOT HIMSELF HAD NOT BEEN IN CUBA. WHOLE STORY WAS SHOT THROUGH WITH CONTRADICTIONS AND HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS ALLEGATIONS WHICH SHOULD HAVE RAISED DOUBTS IN ANYONE'S MIND, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF WELL-ESTABLISHED AND DEEPLY-HELD CUBAN POSITION AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING. CUBA HAD COOPERATED WITH US TO EXTENT WE WISHED. THEY HAD BEEN AND WERE STILL WILLING TO EXPAND COOPERATION IF US WISHED. LIMITATIONS WERE ON OUR SIDE, NOT THEIRS. FOR ITS PART, CUBA ARRESTED ALL DRUG SMUGGLERS WHO ENTERED CUBAN WATERS OR AIR SPACE. HE PERSONALLY OFTEN WONDERED WHY, SINCE US HAD CONSISTENTLY BEHAVED AS THOUGH THIS WERE SOMETHING DONE TO INCONVENIENCE RATHER THAN ASSIST US. CUBA WOULD HAVE TO REVIEW ITS POSITION IN VIEW OF THIS GRATUITOUSLY INSULTING STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT

OF STATE.

4. PADRON CLOSED BY REITERATING THAT STORY WAS ENTIRELY FALSE. CUBA HAD CERTAINLY SHELTERED NO DRUG VESSELS, HAD HAD NO DEALINGS WITH GUILLOT AND HAD SHIPPED NO ARMS TO COLOMBIA.

SMITH

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